



MCC

METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Sunday, March 16, 2014
2nd Lent

The Pursuit of Holiness: Joy

930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in Christ, changing lives and transforming the world

MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Invitation to Ministry

A Time of Praise (3 Songs)

Prayer Preparation Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Children's Blessing

Message

Song of Response

Offering

Offering Song

Communion

Communion Song

Prayer Over Gifts

Closing Song

Commission & Blessing

NOTES FROM THE MCCLV

office

Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel

Office Hours:

Monday: 8am-2pm

Tues-Thurs: 8am-1pm

Fri: 8am-12 noon

Looking for low-cost space for you birthday party or family celebration? Consider MCCLV's Fellowship Hall and kitchen for your gathering! Contact Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel at 610-709-8800 or e-mail office@mcclv.org for more information.

Audio-Visual Support: Anyone planning an event at MCCLV is required to see **Music & Worship Director Brian Jones** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.

Space Reservation: Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church is **required to fill out a space reservation form**. Write to office@mcclv.org for more information.

Sunday Bulletin & Announcements

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is **Wednesday at noon** – email to office@mcclv.org



MCCLV IS ON YOUTUBE!

To view and subscribe to our channel go to www.youtube.com and search **MCC LV**.

**Seder Dinner
April 17, 2014
7:00PM
MCCLV Sanctuary**

The Deacons of MCCLV cordially invite you to a Celebration of Family and God's protection - a Seder Dinner on **Holy Thursday, April 17th at 7:00PM** in the Sanctuary.



There is no cost for this event but reservations are required. Add your name to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please consider bringing your family or a guest.

“Take Me Out to the Ballgame” – MCCLV Softball Fun to Begin Soon!

A group of MCCLV'ers are getting ready to enjoy another summer of fun on the softball field. The plan is to gather, scrimmage and have tons of pure fun and fellowship. Players, spectators, cheerleaders, all are welcome! The first gathering will be on **Sunday, April 6th at 2:00PM** and will be held at “Hitter’s Edge”, 3679 Eberhart Rd, Whitehall, PA 18052. Following that, the group will meet at 2:00PM on the 1st and 4th Sunday of every month (April to August) at Dieruff HS Field, 815 N. Irving St., Allentown, PA 18109, culminating with an “end of the season” picnic on August 24th. Don’t forget your sunscreen, glove and water -- come out and join in the fun!



How Could MCCLV Do Church Events Differently?

Over the past year, MCCLV's major church events have experienced either low or significantly lower attendance than previous years. While the church's events were excellently planned, marketed and executed, getting people to them has

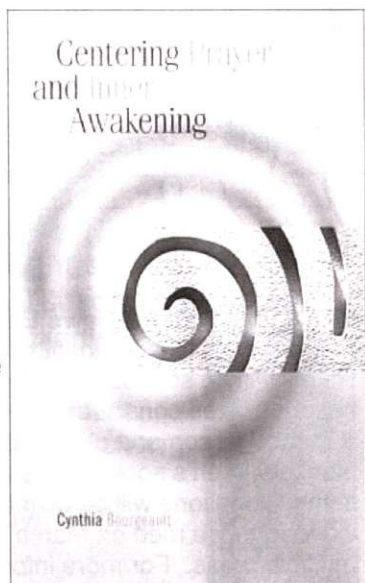
been a struggle. Do you want to help turn this around in order to glorify God more widely? Gather together on **Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:00PM** for a conversation facilitated by Rev. Goudy. Those gathered will talk with God and one another



about how to transform the way MCCLV plans events. The meeting is NOT called to judge, criticize or travel down the "via negativa." The purpose is to be forward-looking and brainstorm diverse approaches to building up the kingdom of God. Be a part of this positive and inspiring conversation!

Are You Feeling Off-Center?

Is your life feeling a bit off-kilter or are you in need of a deeper way of prayer? In May, June and July MCCLV will offer Centering Prayer at 6:00PM on Wednesdays. It would be helpful (though not required) if participants would read Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault's book "Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening" before May. Questions? See Rev. Goudy or e-mail her at rev.goudy@mcclv.org



**Bringing Christian Traditions Into Dialogue
HERE AT MCCLV IN 2014!**

**The
Convergence
Project**

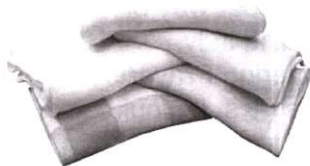
Meets every Sunday morning at MCCLV through April 13 at 9:00 AM, facilitated by Robert Schotter, robdean@ptd.net

- March 23** Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part II
March 30 Power and the Alternative Family Values of Jesus
April 6 Reading Scripture from the Margins
April 13 Finding Ourselves and Our Communities in Scripture

Food Pantry

Contributions are always needed for MCCLV's Food Pantry, bring in a donation whenever you are able. Volunteers are also needed for the Pantry.

Contact Judy McNally via e-mail at:
njm0@lehigh.edu



MCCLV and St. Andrews Episcopal Church are co-sponsoring a fundraising raffle to benefit homeless men in the Lehigh Valley Raffle tickets will be sold during fellowship hour: 3 tickets for each \$1.00 donation. Prizes consist of a free haircut by Ruben, a hair care basket, a Zumba lesson and others. Donation of these items will be accepted: blankets, men's socks – all sizes, and men's personal care items. Donations will be distributed during Friday evening dinners provided to these men on March 23, 2014. Volunteers are needed for multiple areas. For more information please contact Saadia Negrón or Virginia Maurer after worship.

MCCLV Drumming Meets Twice a Month

MCCLV drumming is held the 3rd and 4th Sundays at 1:00PM. Bring your drum or other percussion instruments. See Kate Rickson (k.rickson55@gmail.com) for more information.



Silent Witness Training TODAY

From 1:00—3:00PM

Fellowship Hall

Contact Barb Baus for more information
babaus@hotmail.com

DO YOU HAVE A CARE NEED?

Are you scheduled for surgery? Do you desire a home visit? Are you in need of a prayer partner? MCCLV's Congregational Care & Health Ministry Coordinator is Karl Steiner. Let Karl know your care needs by seeing him in person following the worship service, e-mailing him at karl.steiner@mcclv.org or phoning him at (610) 987-2858. Karl will coordinate care for you through MCCLV.



Retirees Gatherings

Retirees meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Come and share some "golden" time with similarly blessed retirees!



For more information, contact
Karl Steiner, karl.steiner@mcclv.org
or Elaine Ely,
pastor_elaine@yahoo.com



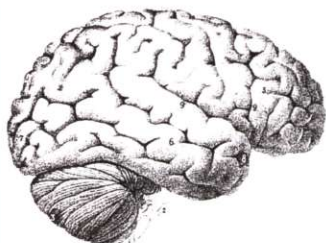
MCCLV'S COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Open every Sunday at 12:00-1:00 PM to serve the community. The pantry is in need of donations. Drop off items in front of the pantry door. Thank you!



MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!

Search **MCC Lehigh Valley**. All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office. Thank you for your cooperation!

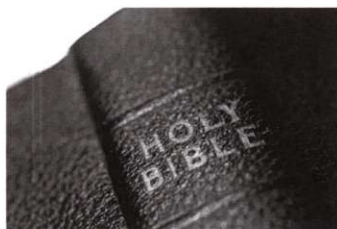


Feast Your Brain on the Bible for 9 Weeks!

Starting in May, MCCLV will host an in-depth study of Paul's Letters to the Romans and Corinthians. The studies will be led by Rev. Goudy and people from all levels of Biblical

background are invited to take part. The Romans study is titled *"Why Do Evangelicals Love Romans So Much They Want to Marry It?"* The 1 Corinthians study is titled *"A Conflicted Church"* and the 2 Corinthians study is titled *"A Conflicted Church, Continued."* All are welcome and warmly encouraged to grow in Biblical knowledge, wisdom and interpretation. For more information contact the Pastor at rev.goudy@mcclv.org or 610-709-8800.

May 21 at 7pm: Romans 1-4
May 28 @ 7pm: Romans 5-8
June 4 @ 7pm: Romans 9-12
June 11 @ 7pm: Romans 13-16
June 18 @ 7pm: 1 Corinthians 1-6
June 25 @ 7pm: 1 Corinthians 7-10
July 2 @ 7pm: 1 Corinthians 11-16
July 9 @ 7pm: 2 Corinthians 1-7:4
July 15 @ 7pm: 2 Corinthians 7:5-13



Earn Money for MCCLV Shopping at AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support MCCLV at no cost. To shop at AmazonSmile go to www.smile.amazon.com and 0.5% of any product marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" will be donated to MCCLV. Those with an existing Amazon account, can continue to use that same account on AmazonSmile. First time visitors to www.smile.amazon.com will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations. MCCLV is listed as "MCC of the Lehigh Valley" and will be remembered so that all future purchases made at AmazonSmile will result in a donation to MCCLV. Questions, please see any member of the Board.



FREE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS "PEOPLE OF FAITH" VIDEOS

Be a part of MCCLV's 2014 Wednesday Night Lenten Video Series and **FREE Dinners!** The weekly 30-minute video surveys the history of Christianity in the United States.

March 19th, 7:00 PM

"Many Mansions"

- Board of Directors providing meal

March 26th, 7:00 PM

"Rebels with a Cause"

- Retirees providing meal

April 2nd, 7:00 PM "Challenges and Change"

- Choir providing meal

April 9th, 7:00 PM "Home Grown Saints"

- 20s30s providing meal

April 16th, 7:00 PM "The Future of Christianity"

- Worship Team providing meal



RSVP to office@mcclv.org or 610-709-8800. All ages are welcome. **A great family activity!**

A QUOTE FOR YOUR WEEK

Most Christian 'believers' tend to echo the cultural prejudices and worldviews of the dominant group in their country, with only a minority revealing any real transformation of attitudes or consciousness. It has been true of slavery and racism, classism and consumerism and issues of immigration and health care for the poor.

(Fr. Richard Rohr)

Want to Know More About MCCLV?

Learn about the blessings that your church is experiencing right now at a Congregational Forum on **Sunday, May 4**. The gathering will start with a **Potluck Meal at 12:00PM**, followed by the **Forum from 12:30-2:00PM**. Strategic goals will be reviewed, along with updated fi-



nancial information. All are welcome, no need to be a church member. Thank you in advance for all that you have done so far in 2014 to glorify God through MCCLV - your time, talent and treasure really do make a difference!

DEALING WITH THE PAIN OF A LOSS?

Loss and grief are part of life, but can be difficult to process alone. Elaine Ely is a trained, experienced and certified specialist in the area of end-of-life issues, loss and grief, being hosted by MCCLV. Her current hours here are Wednesdays from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm (other hours can be arranged upon request). For a single consultation or on-going counseling, reach her at elaine.ely.pastor@gmail.com or 215-915-4370.

Watch for details on an up-coming workshop: "Facing Grief - Yours and Other's", and a 6 week support group series to be offered this fall.



Save The Date!

MCCLV's **30th Anniversary Banquet**
has been scheduled for **May 31, 2014.**

Happy
Anniversary



Adopt an Apartment

6th Street Shelter in Allentown
Service opportunity for MCCLVers

Mark your calendars now

April 5, 2014—9:00AM

Stay tuned for details!

E-mail: babaus@htomail.com

HIV Positive Support Group

A HIV support group at MCCLV meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm. The focus is on living a positive life with HIV—the group is called HIV/Positive Living. This will be a chance to share and have candid discussions. This group is limited to those with HIV, but there will be occasional guest speakers. If you are interested, please contact **Dean Hiatt** at robdean@ptd.net



FORGE A stronger relationship with Christ and one another—join a FORGE group!

A FORGE group **is not** a Bible study, Christian training session, group therapy, nor a doctrinal boot camp.

A FORGE group **is** a small, relational gathering of Christians, primarily focused on **transformation** and not information, where people learn how to interpret their entire lives through the lens of gospel and grow in faith in Christ.

Groups meet every other week for one hour for worship, prayer, devotionals, testimonies and fellowship. Although groups are spread out geographically (South, East and West) to make them easier to get to, you may attend whichever group you choose, even if it is not the one nearest you.



FORGE West Leaders:

Scott George smgmccclv@gmail.com
Ron Smith rsmith.mccclv@gmail.com



FORGE South Leaders:

Loreli Bauer lorelibauer@aol.com
Elaine Ely pastor_elaine@yahoo.com



FORGE East Leaders:

Barb Baus babaus@hotmail.com
Lauren Sheldon laurenesheldon@gmail.com



*I can do everything through Christ
who gives me strength
(Romans 8:28)*

Worship Arts Ministry

MCCLV will be incorporating multi-media, multiple readers, memorization, use of hand-held microphones and staged readings to breathe new life into the reading of sacred scripture on Sundays.



Participants will be required to take part in run-throughs immediately after worship the Sunday prior to the scripture presentation. If you are interested in participating, there will be a short meeting after worship on **March 16, 2014 at 12:15pm** in the sanctuary.

Contact ministry leader Dean Hiatt to participate or if you have any questions (email: robdean@ptd.net)

Early Morning Prayer

What if you could pick up the phone any time you wanted and talk with the most powerful leader or most famous celebrity in the world? Multiply that concept by a million, skip the phone and you're connected to God. WOW! What an amazing gift we are given, 24/7, with the Creator.

Every Sunday at 8AM, MCCLV gathers to converse with God. Come and be blessed as you connect with God through conversational and silent prayer. It truly is an amazing 45 minutes that will start your week with real power. For more information, contact Karl Steiner, karl.steiner@mcclv.org





UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

3rd Lent: March 23, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness IV: "Holy, Holy, Holy"**

4th Lent: March 30, 2014

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:3-10

Preaching Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness V: A Highway Called Holy"**

5th Lent: April 6, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 57:13-18

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness VI: Humility"**

6th Lent: April 13, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Readings: Psalm 118:19-29 & Matthew 21:1-11

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"A Parade of Righteousness"**

Good Friday: April 18, 2014 @ 7:00pm

Scripture Readings: Hebrews 4:14-16 & 5:7-9

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"Reverent Submission"**

Today's Scripture Reading:

Nehemiah 8:5-12

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

MCCLV's Weekly 2014 Budgeted for Giving is 3,916.98

Date	Attendance	Giving
3/9/2014	84	\$1,544.12
3/5/2014	58	\$719.00
3/2/2014	96	\$3276.33
2/23/2014	103	\$2060.35

Full financial reporting is provided at the Board meeting on the 2nd Sunday of every month. All are welcome to attend. Additionally, reports may be viewed in the Board binder in the Library.

MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Congregational Care & Health:

Karl Steiner | karl.steiner@mcclv.org

20s30s Ministry, Faith Community Nurse, Hospitality,
Prayer Team and Reconciliation & Affirmation Ministry

Discipleship:

Robert Schotter | robdean@ptd.net

Small Group Discipleship, Spiritual Growth Programming
and Children & Youth Ministry

Outreach & Justice:

See Rev. Goudy for more information

Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Bank
and Messengers Art Ministry, Helping Hands Ministry

Media & Marketing:

See Rev. Goudy for more information

Communications and Marketing Ministry

Denominational Representatives:

Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre,
Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith

**If you would like an item included on the Board agenda
see any Board Member**

MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby,
Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

MCCLV STAFF

Pastor: Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Music and Worship Director: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org

Administrative Assistant: Paula Merkel | office@mcclv.org